



See photos from Edenton's Christmas Parade — 1B — 50¢

## Edenton Shell station to close Friday

By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The Edenton Shell Station is closing.

Manager Robert Cheek confirmed Saturday morning that the North Broad Street business will close on Friday.

The closure will come 13 days after the station was robbed. A masked gunman entered the station just

after 6 a.m. on Dec. 15 and robbed a lone female clerk. The suspect remains at large. Police are still investigating the incident.

But Cheek said the timing was purely coincidental.

"My lease ran out in July, and I decided to retire," Cheek, 63, said. "I've been leasing it from month to month since then, trying to keep the station open in

hopes that somebody would come forward to take it over."

But Cheek said that advertising by Quality Oil, the Winston-Salem based company that owns Shell, had failed to attract any takers. With the end of the year approaching, Cheek said, he decided to go ahead and close.

"With the economy like it is, I guess nobody's got

the money to take it over," Cheek said.

Taking over the business would require signing a three-year lease and a financial investment of \$15,000 to \$20,000 for inventory and operating expenses to get started, Cheek added.

"A young person could come in and make a good living," Cheek said. "You'd need to have a person that could work the garage.

At this station that's really where they're going to make their money."

Cheek said to do that would probably require working 60-hour weeks.

"The bays weren't open when I leased the station in 2009," Cheek said. "Since I took it over and opened up the bays it has about doubled what (business) we were doing."

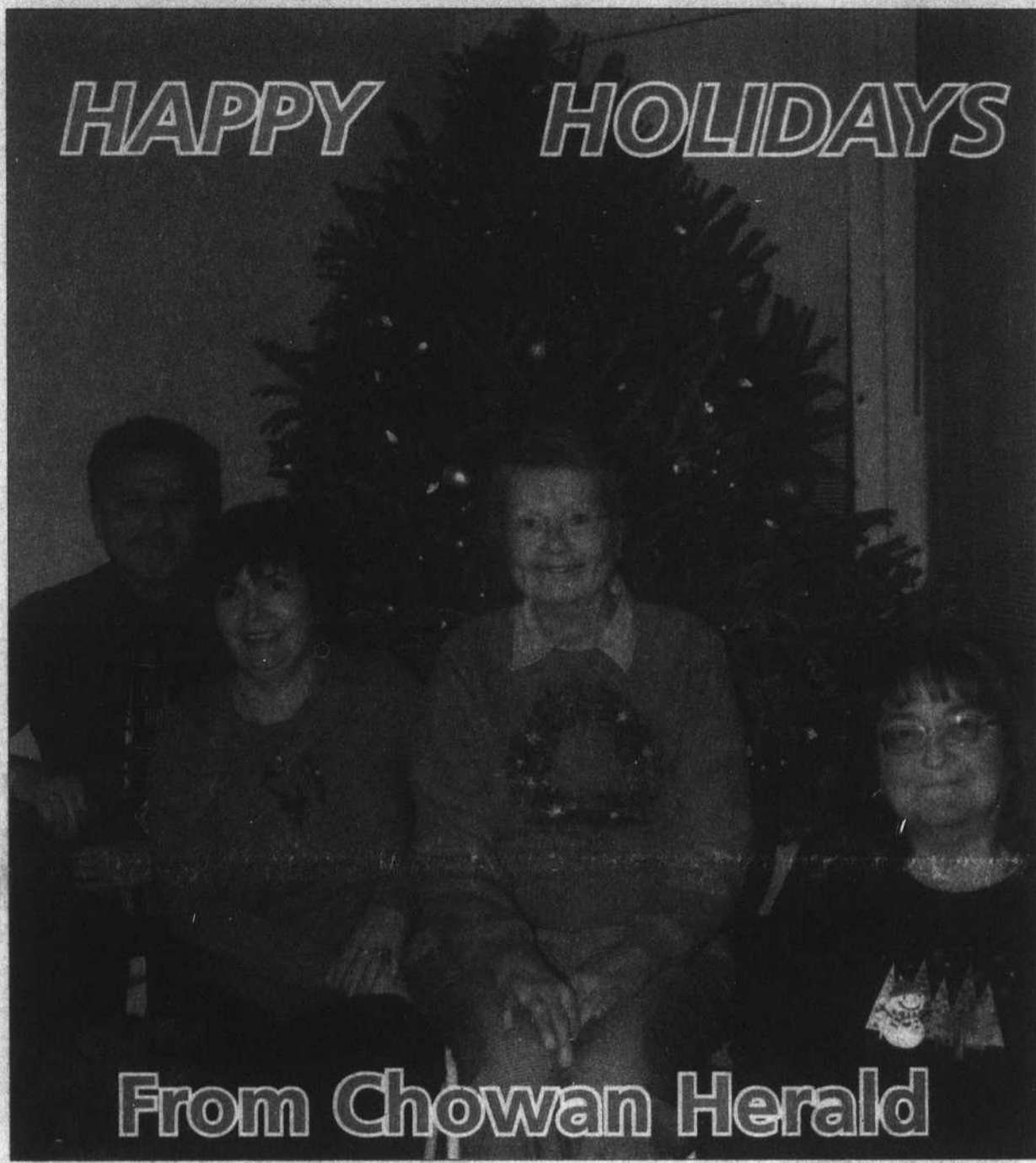
With regard to the inven-

tory, Cheek said that cigarette sales are also a lucrative part of his business.

"If you stop and think about it, cigarettes are \$50 a carton right now," Cheek said. "It doesn't take long to make your (investment) money back."

Cheek added that with its good location and solid business, he hoped to see

See CLOSING, 2A



Chowan Herald's Ritchie Starnes, editor, (l-r) Becky Carter, advertising representative, Sue Bunch, and staff writer, Rebecca Bunch pose in front of the office Christmas tree.

## Town denies golf cart exemption

Board OKs pedicarts

By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

On the same night the Town Council unanimously agreed not to make an exception to its existing golf cart ordinance to accommodate a disabled resident, the board OK'd the use of pedicarts.

At its Dec. 11 meeting, the Council refused to allow a resident who suffers from cerebral palsy an exemption to the town's new golf cart ordinance that requires a driver's license and insurance.

The Council did unanimously approve an ordinance allowing the use of pedicarts on town streets at the meeting.

A local woman, Fay Agar, made the request for an exception to the golf cart ordinance on behalf of her daughter, Ryan Fink.

But Councilman Jimmy Stallings, who made the motion to leave the ordinance as it is, said, "I just feel we're opening ourselves open for repercussions if we do that."

In appealing to the town for an exception Agar said that her daughter's condition requires her to hold

her head at an angle for her vision to be at its best. Fink would not be able to do that while trying to qualify for a driver's license, Agar pointed out.

Hood Ellis, town attorney, had recommended that the town not allow the exception.

Agar, who met with Ellis prior to the start of the meeting, said her family would accept the town's decision and look into providing acceptable transportation for their daughter. But, she added, she wished the outcome had been different.

"I understand that they (Council) relied on that legal opinion in making their decision," Agar said. "But I wish Mr. Ellis had talked with the institute before the vote took place. It might have made a difference."

The pedicart ordinance adopted by the Council will allow for the use of the vehicles on local streets where the speed limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour.

As defined in the ordinance, a pedicart is a device having three or more wheels that is pedaled by a single individual and is capable of transporting

See PEDICARTS, 2A

## Chamber, TDA join Partnership's office

Move to building on South Broad St.

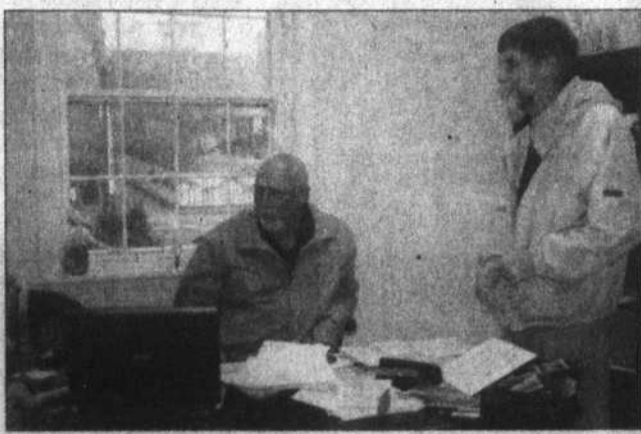
By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Development Authority have officially moved into their new offices at 504 South Broad Street.

They are sharing office space with Edenton Chowan Partnership Director Frank Miglorie in the building that also houses the Chowan Arts Council. The offices adjoin a spacious reception area.

Partnership Chairman Cy Rich said that the move would increase the opportunity for collaboration that already exists between the three agencies. He said a good example of that was the work that all three had put into developing joint proposals for possible Golden Leaf-funded projects.

The Partnership is sub-



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Chamber of Commerce director Win Dale (seated) gets an update on computer installation status in his new office from Chowan County information technology director Joe Silva.

leasing space to the other two agencies for the nominal fee of \$10 each per month under the terms of five-year leases that each signed.

"It was a very generous offer and a great location, in addition to offering us the chance to work in tandem with the other two groups," Deborah Lee, Chamber president, said of the offer she brought to her board for its consideration.

The Partnership is receiving its first year of occupancy free of charge under a special arrangement with the town of Edenton,

Rich said. Afterward, the Partnership would pay \$150 a month.

Rich added that the leniency in the amount of rent charged came hand in hand with the Partnership's promise to the town to absorb the cost of necessary renovations to the building.

Rich said that the Partnership had budgeted \$25,000 toward building renovation and repair but only ended up spending about \$10,000 thanks to considerable volunteer effort from people like Keith

See MOVE, 2A

## Cook's retirement marks "end of an era"

Morris known for her desserts

By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

Gloria Morris vividly remembers the day that Katy Ebersole asked her to come to work at a soon-to-open Edenton restaurant.

"What? Y'all must be crazy!" Morris said she told Ebersole about plans to open the place. In fact, Morris was so unsure about Waterman's future prospects that she only agreed to work there for one year. Almost 17 years later, on Dec. 28, Gloria will leave the kitchen at Waterman's Grill for the last time.

She chuckles at the memory of that day in 1996.

Gloria was the first person offered a full-time position at the restaurant by its new owners — Katy Ebersole and her husband Rick, and their business partner, Brian Roberts.

"I look back now and I'm still amazed at what a big success it (Waterman's) has been," Gloria said.

Katy Ebersole met Gloria while working as a waitress at the Halifax



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Gloria Morris, the first employee hired to work at Waterman's Grill in downtown Edenton when it opened about 17 years ago holds one of her trademark Chocolate Chess Pies.

Hotel in Virginia Beach where Gloria was the kitchen manager. Katy calls Gloria's departure "the end of an era" at the restaurant.

Rick Ebersole considers the homemade pies, cakes and home-style vegetables

that Gloria has prepared over the years as instrumental to Waterman's success.

"Guests who enjoy side dishes like corn pudding and stewed tomatoes

See RETIREMENT, 3A

